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People Profile: Angi Faiks

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Name: Angi Herold Faiks

Born & lived: Born in Kalamazoo, MI. Raised in Greenville, MI. Undergrad education at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Spent a year abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France — studying French. Lived in Chicago for 5 years. Moved to Urbana-Champaign, IL for library school. My first post-degree job was at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Recently moved to the Twin Cities to work as an e-resources librarian at the MINITEX Library Network.

Education: 1997 M.S., School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL.
1990 B.A., French & Philosophy, Double major, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

First job: (First library job) Reference Librarian, Mann Library, Cornell University. Mann is the Life, Biological & Agricultural library at Cornell.

Professional career and activities: See attached CV.

In my spare time I like to: Run, run races (slowly) to raise money for charity, do yoga, cook, read, eat all different kinds of food.

Favorite books: All Anne Lamott, Michael Chabon books, Me Talk Pretty One Day — Sedaris, Middlemarch — Eliot, Sophie’s Choice — Styron, A Suitable Boy — Seth and on and on....

Pet peeves/what makes me mad: Overall lack of concern for our environment. People who are vehemently opposed to change.

Philosophy: Keep getting up. Be nice.

Most meaningful career achievement: It is probably the book chapter that I wrote with my previous director, in a yet-to-be-published book.

Goal I hope to achieve five years from now: I would like to move into a management position where I can more effectively help shape and nurture an organization and its people.

How/Where do I see the industry in five years: I think we will continue to see the exciting development of our library systems. As the new generation of library systems are becoming more robust, I believe that the next phase will be to try to make these systems work better for us and our patrons — heading towards the ease of Google with a library touch. I also am excited to watch the work force change as many retire. I think the new round of library managers will bring a new approach to the workplace, making libraries even more vibrant for staff and patrons. And, I think eBooks will make their mark.

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lication, The National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation, by Asbjørn Moen. (ISBN 82-7945-000-9) published by the Norwegian Mapping Authority. At 31 cm with extensive text, numerous and varied maps, and magnificent photographs, this book stands out not just visually but also for the depth and range of information provided for a country that encompasses Arctic to mild oceanic climates. Nor is it limited to descriptions of vegetation, focusing as well as on the cultural landscape, biodiversity and conservation. This is another fine product from a non-commercial publisher.

The superbly well-organized physicists were clearly admired for their ability to control much of their own publishing, while biologists sadly lamented their own lack of similar cohesion. Zoologists and botanists also are not to appreciate each other’s work and those of other fields who study whole organisms are often dismissed by those who focus on the molecular aspects of living things. They, in turn, are found to be limited in their outlook to mechanical science, “cookbook” science, contributing to a diminution of graduate education by substituting classes on computers and methodology for more horizon-expanding courses. There seems to be little to be done about such dichotomies.

Citations were recited over dinner and e-mails flew after the expedition ended with advice on finding obscure publications. Other information was sought, but proved elusive, surprising given the vast flow of information and the number of scholarly databases that make great claims for their powers. One person wanted to know where a photograph that he took had been published. Databases abound with authors and titles, but not photographers. A Google search on images turns up photographs, but apparently not those covered by copyright. Another hole in the Swiss cheese of information supply? If published photographs are credited, surely they should be indexed.

Not only publishing, but also libraries are never far from my mind. Uppsala is a university town (look at the Uppsala University Website at http://info.uu.se/preseng.htm) and, being an academic librarian, I had to take a look at the Uppsala University Library, housed in a massive old building on a hill overlooking the city, proudly bearing the legend Carolina Rediviva above the main entrance. Carolina Rediviva refers to its predecessor, the oldest university building, Academia Carolina, named after King Charles IX, demolished in 1778. In the early 1800s the present building was erected and named the “Resurrected Carolina.” The library has a venerable look, but it includes a pleasant cafe, attractive glass display cases and public Internet terminals in the lobby alongside darkened rooms displaying the Codex Argenteus (The Silver Bible), a sixth century manuscript of the four gospels. (Those who attended IFLA ’98 in Amsterdam may have heard Lars Munkhammar’s paper on this peripatetic manuscript http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla44/050/132e.htm.) Inside, the library itself is bright and modern, revived yet again, with comfortable seating and shelves filled with centuries of books, and computer terminals at the ready.

Inevitably, libraries came into dinner table conversation. We learned that British students, trained

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